

Rideau Canal, Ontario
Lockmaster's House
Lower Beveridges Lockstation

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The lockmaster's house at Lower Beveridges Lockstation was built in 1883, possibly in two stages, by the Government of Canada as part of the construction of the Second Tay Canal between Lower Rideau Lake and the Tay River at Perth. It originally served as both the lockmaster's residence and the lockstation office. A verandah, woodshed (both replaced in kind in 1988) and a frame kitchen were added in the late 19th century. The building continues to function as a residence. The Canadian Parks Service is the custodial department. See FHBRO Building Report 91-73.

Reasons for Designation

The Lower Beveridges Lockmaster's House was designated Recognized as a result of its historical associations, its design characteristics, and the historic residential nature of the site.

The house, the first structure to be built at this lockstation, is associated with the Post-Confederation construction of regional waterways for transportation purposes. The Second Tay Canal, intended originally to promote commercial traffic to Perth, is also associated with the recreational use of the Rideau Canal system by passenger steamers at the turn of the century.

The Lockmaster's House is the only structure at Lower Beveridges surviving from the early period of the Second Tay Canal. As such, it contributes to the historic character of the lockstation and is a local landmark.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of this structure is defined by its turn-of-the-century vernacular design and its contribution to the setting.

Like similar lockmaster's houses on the Rideau Canal dating from the late nineteenth century, the Lower Beveridges house is a good example of farmhouse design from the period -- clapboarded, two-storey, and gabled-roofed, with the L-shape plan frequently employed in this type of structure. The frame kitchen addition at the rear dates from before 1930, while the woodshed and verandah replicate 1930s ones. The functional residential design of the building reflects the period of commercial and recreational use of the canal system. The house, in good overall condition, exhibits the central-hall plan popular at the time, and retains much interior woodwork and, apparently, the original windows. Inspection and maintenance of the building fabric should be carried out routinely.

Lockmaster's House
Lower Beveridges Lockstation (Continued)

The house retains its 1930s appearance and the relationship of the house to the setting

is unchanged. The pleasant rural character of the environment should be preserved.

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